

## The Solar System

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate an understanding that there are objects other than our Sun and the planets in our solar system;</li><li>• Identify and describe characteristics of an asteroid;</li><li>• Identify and describe characteristics of a meteoroid; and,</li><li>• Identify and describe characteristics of a comet</li></ul>
Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Computers for each group of students</li><li>2. Solar system models</li><li>3. Piece of paper with each planet written on each one</li><li>4. A jar or container to draw the paper out of</li><li>5. A poster board for each group</li><li>6. Crayons, markers, craft supplies</li></ol>
Procedures	Divide the students into groups of 2 or 3. Write the names of the planets on tiny sheets of paper for each group to pick out of a jar. Assign that team to do research on the planet they pick. These pieces of paper can also include things such as the sun, moon, meteors, etc. They will also make a poster board to present to the class.
Prior Knowledge	It is important for students to have some knowledge about planets and the solar system. They need to know how many planets. They need to know about the things in the solar system that rotate around the planets and the sun.
Assessment	After students have completed their research they will be asked to make a short presentation to the rest of class. The students will be asked to answer questions from the instructor and the other classmates.
Standards	This lesson plan addresses the following National Science Education Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earth and Space Science: Objects in the sky; Changes in earth and sky; Earth in the solar system</li><li>• Physical Science: Properties of objects and materials</li><li>• History and Nature of Science: Science as a human endeavor; Nature of scientific knowledge</li></ul>

Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Five points:</b>Students were highly engaged in class discussions; worked extremely well in their research groups; produced colorful and creative posters that identified at least 10 interesting facts about the celestial body they researched; and presented a complete 2-3 minute report that correctly addressed the set criteria.</li><li>• <b>Three points:</b>Students were engaged in class discussions; worked well in their research groups; produced somewhat colorful and creative posters that identified at least 8 interesting facts about the celestial body they researched; and presented a 1-2 minute report that correctly addressed most of the set criteria.</li><li>• <b>One point:</b>Students participated minimally in class discussions; were unable to work in their research groups without outside assistance; produced unfinished or nondescript posters that identified 5 or fewer interesting facts about the celestial body they researched; and presented an incoherent, incomplete report that did not address the set criteria.</li></ul>
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**Grade 3-5 Duration 2-3 class periods**

**Overview:** Students will use zazna.com as a tool to complete this project. Instructors will have assigned planets for them to research and post information on. Students will need to create a Zazna account and post their information on this site for all students to see.